

**Minutes / 3-23-21**

**Location: P.A.S.S.**

**A. Attendance:** Marcos Martinez, Nick Avila, Hannah Bussell, Ann Redman, Maira Marcum, Trish Linton, Sarah Melendez

**B. Approval of Agenda**

1. Hannah motion to the approve agenda (6:06pm); affirmed unanimous

**C. Approval of Minutes**

1. Hannah motion to approve minutes (6:06pm); affirmed unanimous

**D. Public Comment**

1. No public comment at this time.

**E. New Board Member**

1. Introduction - Sarah Melendez
  - a. Born and raised Cheyenne
  - b. Graduated from the University of Northern Colorado
  - c. Comes with diverse professional experience
    - i. Currently does management consulting
  - d. Truly values education
  - e. Marcos has known Sarah for a while. Says she values what the school is doing, shares similar philosophies
  - f. Ann has known Sarah since she was in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, every year she applied for the Hope scholarship, she is a recipient of the Latina Youth scholarship
2. Board Discussion
  - a. Hannah is excited to hear what perspectives Sarah will bring to the Board
  - b. Maira – How does your experience add to the board?
    - i. Sarah: Was the first in her family to go to college, helped her grow and develop skills that prepared her for the workforce.
  - c. Trish – Why are you interested in PODER?
    - i. Sarah: Wishes a school like PODER would have been around when she was in school. Likes that students can earn college credit.
  - d. Sarah – What is the most valuable aspect of being on this board?
    - i. Hannah – Has kids at the school, likes having a voice to advocate for the school and present ideas, supports school choice.
    - ii. Maira – The board is a way to be involved in a new community. It is important to have a voice in education.

- iii. Trish – Staff members were willing to put in the effort for her child, likes being able to give back.
  - iv. Ann – Was involved with the elementary start up, always felt education was important but didn't have the opportunity to go to college. She was able to get associates for business in Denver because people believed in her. This is a way to give back. To see change you need to be part of the solution.
3. Ann motion to approve Sarah Melendez (6:22pm); affirmed unanimous

## **F. School / COVID-19 Update**

- 1. Snowstorm – Took lead on school closures from the District
  - a. Will need to make up 4 days
  - b. Chose to make these up during Spring Break to maintain some continuity
  - c. Hannah supports this decision, does believe it is a huge imposition for parents, school made the best of a bad situation.
  - d. Ann – how does this affect families that had plans before Spring Break?
    - i. Marcos: Not a lot we can do, options are limited. This was not an easy decision but the Admin team did not want to push this off until the end of the school year and also waste good instruction days.
    - ii. School will also push WY-TOPP back one week
  - e. Maira – How will students who miss school catch up?
    - i. Marcos: Students will have limited options to make up work.
  - f. Trish – Will remote options be available to students who can't attend?
    - i. Marcos: Remote options will only be available to bussers because the District will not be able to provide busses.
- 2. COVID Update
  - a. Trish – when staff go out of state, is school requiring them to quarantine?
    - i. Marcos: Have not encountered that situation yet, but school does not currently have this policy in place.
  - b. Ann – how many staff have been vaccinated?
    - i. Marcos: about half of the staff. School is not requiring staff to vaccinate.
  - c. Ann has not seen any COVID positive updates in local news
    - i. Marcos: not sure why not
  - d. Sarah – If kids are showing symptoms, is there an online option?
    - i. Marcos: yes, we have remote learning available for students who are required to quarantine
- 3. Academic progress
  - a. Marcos feels confident that students will perform well on WY-TOPP
- 4. Soccer season – School is preparing for a re-start of the soccer season
- 5. Chess – Tournaments are being played on-line for the time being

**G. Financials Approval (January 21')**

1. Marcos: Still a lot of variables we are waiting on
2. The amount of next federal funding allocation is still unclear
  - a. Not sure if deadline to use prior funding will be extended
3. Board will be asked to approve two budgets at the next board meeting
4. School's finances are currently healthy,
  - a. Large carryover balance
  - b. May need to dip into it for the upcoming school year
  - c. Carryover balance is currently just over a million dollars
5. Awaiting finalized budget cuts at State level
  - a. Do not anticipate a need for a hiring freeze at this time
6. Ann: What does foundation funding refer to?
  - a. Marcos: That refers to the PPR revenue.
7. Ann: Who has authority to approve use of unused funding
  - a. The district approves our spending under the federal fund.
8. Ann motion to approve financials for January 21' (6:44pm); affirmed unanimous

**H. Executive Session**

1. Hannah motion to enter executive session (6:44pm); affirmed unanimous
2. Trish motion to exit executive session (7:00pm); affirmed unanimous

**I. Next Board Meeting**

1. Monday, May 10<sup>th</sup> (6:00pm) – PASS

**J. Adjourn** - Trish motion to adjourn (7:03pm); affirmed unanimous